

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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SAJ-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 IO-11 AID-05 /091 W

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R 300820Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4468

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SINGAPORE 0508

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC

SUBJECT: MARCOS VISIT TO SINGAPORE

SUMMARY: GOS EXTENDED WARM WELCOME TO PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS DURING EXCEPTIONALLY BUSY THREE-DAY STATE VISIT. JOINT COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF ASEAN SHOULD BE THE "ENHANCEMENT OF ITS COLLECTIVE STRENGTH BASED ON ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND POLITICAL STABILITY", AND THAT ACCELERATED ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT WITHIN ASEAN WOULD HELP TO REDUCE THREAT OF SUBVERSION IN THE REGION. COMMUNIQUE ALSO NOTED THAT THE GREAT POWERS COULD PLAY A "CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE" IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION "BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF MUTUAL BENEFITS, NONINTERFERENCE AND RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY."
END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS DEPARTED SINGAPORE JANUARY 29 AFTER THREE-DAY STATE VISIT. ALTHOUGH RECEPTION EXTENDED TO FERDINAND AND IMELDA DID NOT QUITE MATCH THE LAVISH AND FULSOME RECEPTION OF PRESIDENT AND MRS SUHARTO IN THEIR FIRST STATE VISIT TO SINGAPORE IN 1974, GOS CLEARLY
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EXTENDED ITSELF TO ENSURE A VERY CORDIAL WELCOME TO THEIR

PHILIPPINE VISITORS.

2. FOLLOWING MARCOS' ARRIVAL (EACH IN HIS OR HER OWN DC-8- APPARENTLY FOR SECURITY REASONS), THEY PLUNGED INTO A BUSY SCHEDULE WHICH INCLUDED ARRIVAL AND FAREWELL COURTESY CALLS ON PRESIDENT AND MRS SHEARES, ATTENDANCE AT A STATE BANQUET HOSTED BY THE SHEARES AND A LUNCHEON GIVEN PRIME MINISTER LEE AND HOSTING A RETURN BANQUET. WHILE PRESIDENT MARCOS GOLFED, VISITED THE JURONG TOWN COOPERATION WHERE THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PLANTS ARE LOCATED, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND DEPARTED FROM HIS REGULAR SCHEDULE TO VISIT ONE OF THE OFFSHORE ISLAND TO SEE THE OLD BRITISH GUN EMPLACEMENTS "POINTED THE WRONG WAY," MADAME MARCOS RECEIVED A BRIEFING ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SINGAPORE AND VISITED THE NATIONAL STADIUM, THE MANDAI ORCHID GARDENS (WHERE A NEW HYBRID WAS NAMED FOR HER) AND THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

3. MARCOS AND LEE KWAN YEW MET TOGETHER FOR TWO WORKING LUNCHEES. DURING FIRST LUNCH THEY WERE JOINED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO, ENRILE (DEFENSE) AND PATERNO (INDUSTRY) AND THEIR SINGAPORE MINISTERIAL COUNTERPARTS RAJARATNAM, GOH KENG SWEE AND HON SUI SEN. AT PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCOS STATED THAT MAIN TOPIC OF LUNCH TALKS WAS AGENDA FOR ASEAN SUMMIT. HE STATED THAT SUHARTO'S PROPOSALS ON (A) PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS AND (B) COOPERATION ON SUPPLY OF FOOD AND ENERGY WOULD BE STARTING POINTS OF SUMMIT AGENDA.

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4. HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCOS PRESS CONFERENCE-MARCOS MADE
FOLLOWING COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON TOPICS
SET FORTH BELOW:

(A) SECURITY COOPERATION: "I DON'T BELIEVE IN MILITARY PACTS.
I WILL BE THE LOSER." ASEAN MEMBERS ALREADY COOPERATE BY
JOINTLY PATROLLING BORDERS AND EXCHANGING INTELLIGENCE.
INSURGENCY AND TENSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WILL CONTINUE,
BUT " I CAN NOT FORESEE ANY THREAT OF OUTRIGHT EXTERNAL
AGGRESSION FROM ANY COUNTRY."

(B) POSSIBLE JAPANESE, AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
ATTENDANCE AT ASEAN SUMMIT: "MY SUGGESTION WILL BE THAT
ASEAN BE LEFT TO BECOME AN ORGANIC UNIT OF COOPERATION...
AFTER WHICH DIFFERENT COUNTRIES LIKE THE EEC (SIC) CAN DEAL
WITH ASEAN AND NOT WITH INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS."

(C) ECONOMIC COOPERATION: ASEAN MUST HAVE AN ECONOMIC
FOUNDATION AND MODERNIZATION AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS
ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOLS TO COMBAT INSURGENCY.

(D) BORDER DISPUTES: THE PHILIPPINES' CLAIM TO SABAH
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IS "COMPLETELY AT A STANDSTILL. WE HAVE NOT PURSUED IT
NOR DO WE INTEND TO." WE HOPE ASEAN WILL DEVELOP A
MECHANISM FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF BORDER DISPUTES.

(E) ASEAN STRUCTURE: THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR ASEAN
IS THE ORGANIZATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT
SECRETARIAT.

5. IN HIS BANQUET SPEECH, SINGAPORE'S PRESIDENT SHEARES
STATED THAT "ALTHOUGH THE ERA OF WESTERN DOMINATION IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA HAD ENDED, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL LINKS
WITH WESTERN NATIONS SHOULD BE KEPT. THEIR ECONOMIC
STRENGTH AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROWESS CAN CONTINUE TO
HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION."
HOWEVER, HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE "UNITED STATES MILITARY WITHDRAWAL
FROM THE REGION," AND NOTED THAT "IT IS WHAT SOUTHEAST ASIANS
THEMSELVES DECIDE AND DO, IN ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC COOPERATION
THAT WILL ENSURE OUR SECURITY." MARCOS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF
THE ASEAN COUNTRIES INTEGRATING THEIR ECONOMIC CAPABILITIES
AND MARKETS. ALTHOUGH PRAISING PRESIDENT SUHARTO AS A "MUTUAL
LEADER IN THIS REGION" BECAUSE OF INDONESIA'S SIZE AND

STRENGTH, HE WARNED THAT ONE SINGLE NATION COULD NOT DETERMINE ALONE THE DESTINY OF OUR REGION.

6. JOINT COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT LEE AND MARCOS HAD AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD BE FURTHER INTENSIFIED, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT. BILATERAL COOPERATION SHOULD BE PURSUED IN THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF ASEAN COOPERATION.

(B) " THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF ASEAN SHOULD BE THE ENHANCEMENT OF ITS COLLECTIVE STRENGTH, BASED ON ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND POLITICAL STABILITY... ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD TAKE DECISIVE INITIATIVES TO DEVELOP FULLY THEIR COLLECTIVE STRENGTH TO MAKE THE REGION AN AREA OF PEACE AND PROGRESS."

(C) "REAFFIRMED THEIR CONFIDENCE IN ASEAN AS THE VEHICLE
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FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT... THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF ASEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN BALI WOULD IDENTIFY FEASIBLE AREAS FOR INTENSIFYING ASEAN CO-OPERATION TO ENHANCE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY IN THE REGION."

(D) " THE ACCELERATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WAS A MAJOR SOLUTION TO SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND POLITICAL UNREST IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION... THIS WOULD HELP TO REDUCE THREATS OF SUBVERSION WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND IN THE REGION AS A WHOLE."

(E) " THE GREAT POWERS COULD PLAY A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF MUTUAL BENEFITS, NONINTERFERENCE AND RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY."
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